

CLAIMS

1. A tabletted chewing gum sweet characterised in that it comprises at least two integral parts, a first integral part comprising a compressed gum base and a tablet base material, and a second integral part comprising a compressed tablet base material.
2. A tabletted chewing gum sweet according to claim 1 comprising one or more further integral parts which may be made of the same material as the first and second integral parts or of a different material to the first and second integral parts.
3. A tabletted chewing gum sweet according to claim 1 wherein the integral parts are arranged as two or more layers on top of one another or side by side, or one integral part is inlaid in another integral part, or one integral part is completely enclosed within one or more other integral parts.
4. A tabletted chewing gum sweet according to claim 1 wherein when the integral parts are arranged as layers, the individual layers are of the same or different thicknesses.
5. A tabletted chewing gum sweet according to claim 1 consisting of two layers wherein either layer is thicker than the other.
6. A tabletted chewing gum sweet according to claim 5 wherein the ratio of thicknesses is from 0.1:1 to 10:1.
7. A tabletted chewing gum sweet according to claim 5 wherein the first integral part of the tabletted chewing gum sweet according to the invention is thicker than the second integral part in a ratio of from 1.5:1 to 10:1.
8. A tabletted chewing gum sweet according to claim 1 wherein the tablet base material for both the first and second integral parts is based on a sugar or a polyol.

9. A tabletted chewing gum sweet according to claim 1 wherein the gum base is a plasticised rubber or polymer which has added texturisers, anti-tacking agents and antioxidants.

10. A tabletted chewing gum sweet according to claim 1 wherein the tablet base for both the first and second integral parts is sucrose, fructose, lactose, dextrose, sorbitol, mannitol, maltitol, xylitol, isomalt, glucose syrup, maltitol syrup or erithrithol.

11. A tabletted chewing gum sweet according to claim 1 wherein the particle sizes of the gum base and the tablet base materials of both the first and second integral parts range from 10 microns to 2mm.

12. A tabletted chewing gum sweet according to claim 1 wherein in the first integral part of the tabletted chewing gum sweet, the gum base is present in an amount of from 5% to 99%.

13. A tabletted chewing gum sweet according to claim 1 wherein the weight ratio of the first and second integral parts is from 1.5: 1 to 10:1.

14. A tabletted chewing gum sweet according to claim 1 containing a binder, a lubricant, a flavour or a colour.

15. A tabletted chewing gum sweet according to claim 1 wherein the first and second integral parts have different colours which provide contrasting effects to give a very distinctive and attractive visual indication of two components.

16. A tabletted chewing gum sweet according to claim 1 which gives a textural contrast when broken in the mouth of an initial crunchy and then a chewy sensation.

17. A tabletted chewing gum sweet according to claim 1 containing an active ingredient.

18. A tabletted chewing gum sweet according to claim 13 wherein the active ingredient is present in the second layer.

19. A tabletted chewing gum sweet according to claim 18 wherein the active ingredient is a pharmaceutical, medicated, nutritive or functional ingredient, a dental vehicle or a breath freshener.

20. A process for the preparation of a tabletted chewing gum sweet according to the invention in a configuration of two layers which comprises forming a first integral part by mixing a particulated gum base material with a particulated tablet base material, forming a second integral part comprising a particulated tablet base material, feeding one of the integral parts into a tablet press and compressing, feeding the other integral part into the tablet press and compressing both integral parts in the tablet press to enable the materials of each integral part to bind together and form a tabletted chewing gum sweet having the two integral parts joined together, and finally ejecting the tabletted chewing gum sweet.

21. A process according to claim 20 wherein the first integral part is fed into the tablet press before the second integral part to give the tabletted chewing gum sweet.

22. A process according to claim 20 wherein one or more further integral parts which are made of the same material as the first and second integral parts or of a different material to the first and second integral parts are fed into the tablet press and compressed to form a product with three or more layers.

23. A process for the preparation of a tabletted chewing gum sweet as claimed in claim 1 in a configuration of one integral part inlaid in another integral part which comprises feeding one of the integral parts into a tablet press and compressing into a shape having an indentation, feeding the other integral part into the indentation and compressing both integral parts in the tablet press to enable the materials of each integral part to bind together and form a tabletted chewing gum sweet having the two integral parts joined together, and finally ejecting the tabletted chewing gum sweet.

24. A process according to claim 23 wherein a further integral part is fed into the tablet press and compressed to cover and enclose the compressed integral part in the indentation.